

April 27, 2016

Subject: Sustainable Land Care Policy

Background: At the Park and Recreation Advisory Board's (PRAB) April 20, 2016 meeting, the Board considered the latest draft (2/3/16) of the Sustainable Land Care Policy. PRAB sees the adoption and implementation of a land care policy as a critically important step towards updating the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan.

Discussion: Richard Fink, Superintendent of Parks, presented the latest draft of the land care policy. There have been previous versions of this policy dating back to 2007, but none have been officially adopted for implementation by the City. Mr. Fink used three previous versions of the policy to create the current draft, which has been vetted at the staff level. He emphasized his desire to see a policy which would provide clear guidelines for staff, but would be adaptable to change (such as new regulations by the State). He also stated that he was seeking feedback on the document and was open to suggestions.

PRAB members complimented Mr. Fink on the well-written and well-organized policy. The document offers operational guidelines while allowing flexibility to adapt to factors, such as new laws and regulations, shifting research patterns, changes in climate and invasive pests and plants.

PRAB offered feedback on a few items which needed to be more specifically defined or refined. Former Deputy of Public Works, Bill Phelan was present and complimented Mr. Fink on the draft document. He mentioned that the Committee on Trees has expertise to offer for "Plant Care" portion of the document.

Conclusions: PRAB supports the Sustainable Land Care Policy with the incorporation of the Board's comments.

Recommendations: PRAB recommends that City Council adopt a Sustainable Land Care Policy. Furthermore, PRAB recommends that once the policy is in place, the Parks Superintendent should be tasked with revising and updating the Buddy Attick Lake Park Master Plan.

Vote: 6 to 0

Respectfully submitted by:

Lola Skolnik, Chair

Park and Recreation Advisory Board